

RVM Construction Insider

Spring 2014

Energy Saving

RVM Construction Insider

Residential and Commercial Construction Tips and Advice

SPRING



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Mother Nature certainly likes her routine, which for those of us lucky enough to live here in beautiful Southern California, means mild seasons. Global warming aside, she cycles through the same processes, in the same order, doing things the same way they have always worked.

Within that cycle, of course, variations exist—a dry winter or a mild fall—and we can probably rely on the rhythm. One season follows the other. It's a comfortable predictability in a world that often seems to be wildly unpredictable, and following our mild fall and dry winter we can probably anticipate a nice long hot summer.

So how can you beat the heat and save money on cooling costs at the same time?

1. Install a programmable thermostat on your Air Conditioner.
2. Give your AC a tune up and clean the filters once a month during the hottest months.
3. Install attic insulation rated R-30, seal all attic leaks, and any inside leaks around fireplace dampers, doors, and windows.
4. Close vents in unused rooms and install ceiling fans. Just the breeze of a fan can make you feel 4 degrees cooler.
5. Replace your five most-used light fixtures with energy star bulbs.

6. Pull the plug on the second fridge if you don't need it, and if your fridge is older than 1990, its time to replace with an energy star model.
7. Wash and dry full loads only, and use cold water.
8. When not using your computer set it to sleep or hibernate mode instead of screen saver mode.
9. Turn off your water heater while you are on vacation, and lower the heat to 120 degrees when in use.
10. Consider replacing your windows to a high performance variety.

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